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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the comments of the Press Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the recent statements by the Foreign Minister of Armenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the comments were distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16 and 20, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-23377 (E) 120208

Annex to the letter dated 7 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the Press Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the recent statements by the Foreign Minister of Armenia

19 December 2007

After the Madrid meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Armenian Government officials started aggressively pursuing propaganda to misrepresent the peace talks on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict, attempting to mislead both the domestic and the international public on the substance of the talks.

It is a clear indication of a pre-election hysteria to delude the Armenian people, nevertheless requiring a clear response and clarifications to avoid any misinterpretations.

The talks are built on the clear stance of the full restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty over all the occupied Azerbaijani territories and return of the displaced people ethnically cleansed by the Armenian State to their lands of origin, including the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan does not negotiate its territorial integrity and never will.

At the same time, Azerbaijan has always demonstrated its very good will through the search for every opportunity to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and we do not believe that diplomatic options are exhausted.

Armenia, on the contrary, through continued military aggression, demonstrates its unchanged policy of the use of force, which is intolerable. Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations gives a full right of self-defence if an armed attack occurs. We see a paradox when the aggressor State Armenia surpasses a victim of aggression, Azerbaijan, in military expenditure as a percentage of GDP: 4.3 versus 3.8. Besides, Armenia has heavily militarized separatists in Nagorno Karabakh.

Azerbaijan values the position of the international community, which has unequivocally supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan through the adoption of resolutions, statements and decisions, on both State and international organization levels, and we strongly believe that propaganda by Armenian officials will ring another alarm bell about the real intentions of the Government of Armenia.